

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 ATHENS 06430 280901Z  
ACTION VO-05

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 NEA-10 CA-01 CIAE-00 FBIE-00  
INSE-00 NSAE-00 MMO-01 /030 W  
-----118559 290610Z /15  
R 280838Z JUL 78  
FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6950

C O N F I D E N T I A L ATHENS 6430

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: CVIS, CGEN  
SUBJECT: VISAS FOR IRAQI CITIZENS

REF: STATE 182244

1. SUGGESTIONS CONTAINED IN PARA 1 REFTEL (THAT POST FORWARD IRAQI NIV APPLICATIONS) APPEARS IMPRACTICAL IN VIEW OF THE AMOUNT OF EXTRA WORK THAT WOULD BE REQUIRED IN MIDST OF SUMMER SEASON MARKED BY EMPLOYEE VACATIONS AND HEAVY VISA DEMAND. OUR RECORDS SHOW THAT DURING PERIOD 1 OCTOBER 77 TO 30 JUNE 78 WE ISSUED 27 VISAS TO IRAQIS: ONE F-1, ONE G-4, EIGHT B-2 AND EIGHTEEN C-1. THE NUMBER OF C-1 VISAS ISSUED IS DUE IN PART TO TRANSIT OF IRAQUIS WITH CANADIAN IMMIGRANT AND REFUGEE DOCUMENTATION. IN ORDER TO LOCATE THESE 28 APPLICATIONS, WE WOULD HAVE TO PHYSICALLY SEARCH APPROXIMATELY 80,000 APPLICATIONS IN UR CHRONOLOGICAL AND ALPHABETICAL FILES. WE WOULD PREFER, THEREFORE, TO AWAIT MORE DEFINITE INFORMATION, SUCH AS NAME OF VISA RECIPIENT AND DATE VISA WAS ISSUED, BEFORE MAKING SEARCH. MEANWHILE, IRAQI VISAS ISSUED NOW AND APPLICATIONS PULLED OUT DURING NORMAL PURGING OPERATIONS WILL BE MAINTAINED IN SPECIAL FILE.

2. SECOND ALLEGATION SEEMS TO BE MISUNDERSTANDING OF OUR APPROACH TO UK EMBASSY LAST FALL. AFTER LEARNING THAT BAHAMAS VISAS WERE BEING USED IN ATTEMPT BY IRAQIS TO GAIN AND THEN VIOLATE  
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TRWOV STATUS, WE CONTACTED UK EMBASSY WITH OUR INFORMATION. WE CAREFULLY STRESSED THAT WE DID NOT WISH TO INTERFERE IN THE DECISION (WHICH WAS THEIRS ALONE) OF WHETHER OR NOT TO ISSUE ANY INDIVIDUAL VISA. WE DID MAKE THEM AWARE OF OUR BELIEF THAT THEIR IRAQI APPLICANTS' INTENTIONS WERE IN ALL PROBABILITY TO DISEMBARK IN NEW YORK AND NOT TO CONTINUE ON TO BAHAMAS. WE RECENTLY CALLED UK CONOFF WHO WAS PRIMARILY INVOLVED,

AND SHE STATED THAT SHE DID NOT THEN AND DOES NOT NOW INTERPRET OUR  
APPROACH AS INDICATING US INDIFFERENCE TO ISSUANCE OF VISAS.  
THE DIRECT RESULT, IN FACT WAS GREATLY INCREASED SCRUTINY  
BY THE UK EMBASSY OF IRAQI APPLICANTS AND REDUCED VISA ISSUANCE  
TO THEM.  
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## Message Attributes

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**Concepts:** n/a  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
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